1: Honigmann E-5 (1943-1945) 1949 ND12 Nahane ND12

generally narrow, cleared only enough to permit the transit of dogs and people traveling in single file. Winter trails are better cleared and cut wider, in order to accommodate loaded toboggans and people on snowshoes. Travelers in summer may follow part of a winter trail, but generally the latter are direct routes while in summer people must bypass lakes, sloughs, and the bends of rivers.

Both summer and winter trails are marked by blazed trees which, in a well wooded area, are spaced about a hundred feet apart. In addition, men who are hunting in an unfamiliar region may make temporary blazes to guide them on their return to camp or on a subsequent visit to a meat cache. Temporary blazing consists of breaking willow branches in the direction taken. Sometimes a forked stick is planted in soft ground and another thin pole laid in the fork to point direction. In early fall, a safe crossing on newly formed ice may be marked by three or four foot long poles stuck in the snow.

Trails usually follow the contour of a country. They never adhere to the meandering courses of rivers but always portage across points of land or, in winter, arms of water, in order to save distance. A trail usually ascends a ridge diagonally rather than proceeding straight up the face. In winter, the open face of such a diagonal ascent may be bulwarked with small black spruce trees laid lengthwise along the trail. Such a bulwark guards a toboggan from sliding down the otherwise open hillside. Spruce poles, roughly trimmed of brush, may also be extended from an ascent into the branches of trees growing below the trail. Such poles are placed about four feet apart and also serve to prevent a vehicle from overturning, should it slip from the ridge. Further protection is achieved by banking ascents with snow which is kicked from the overhanging slope with snowshoes.

Windfalls are removed from winter trails if they are small enough to cut with an ax and light enough to lift aside. Otherwise fallen timber may be axed in half and pushed down into the snow. When a heavy windfall blocks a trail, small sticks and snow are kicked up to make an embankment, on which the toboggan can pass over the obstacle, or else the vehicle is lifted across the block. Winter trails are maintained by whoever uses them. A man making his first trip to the trap line in autumn will cut whatever overhanging branches and windfalls obstruct his passage. With the first snow he will bulwark ascents to ridges and cut more brush. Anyone else using the trail is free to benefit from these improvements.

In summer, trails cross small creeks by means of bridges constructed by felling from one to three trees, four or five inches in diameter, across the stream. These are trimmed of branches and moved close together. Bridges are also constructed by throwing down four or five saplings, two or three inches in diameter. Large rivers are crossed by rafts.

Many points along trails and rivers are designated by place names. Such identifications are freely coined and usually originate from some outstanding feature of the site or from some memorable event associated with that place. Thus a long ridge overlooking a wide stretch of country is called See the Country. A lake is known as Excited Lake, Old Man explained, because "People come there. They stay one night. They don't know how to go on, go back, or cross the mountain. Talking, talking; finally fighting [arguing] going on. They turn back." River Joe calls a slough below his winter settlement by the name of his daughter, who was born there in a temporary camp. An island in the Liard River is known as Natsitsi ("Long Face") Island. Natsitsi was one of Old Man's dogs. One year, as the family was

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764

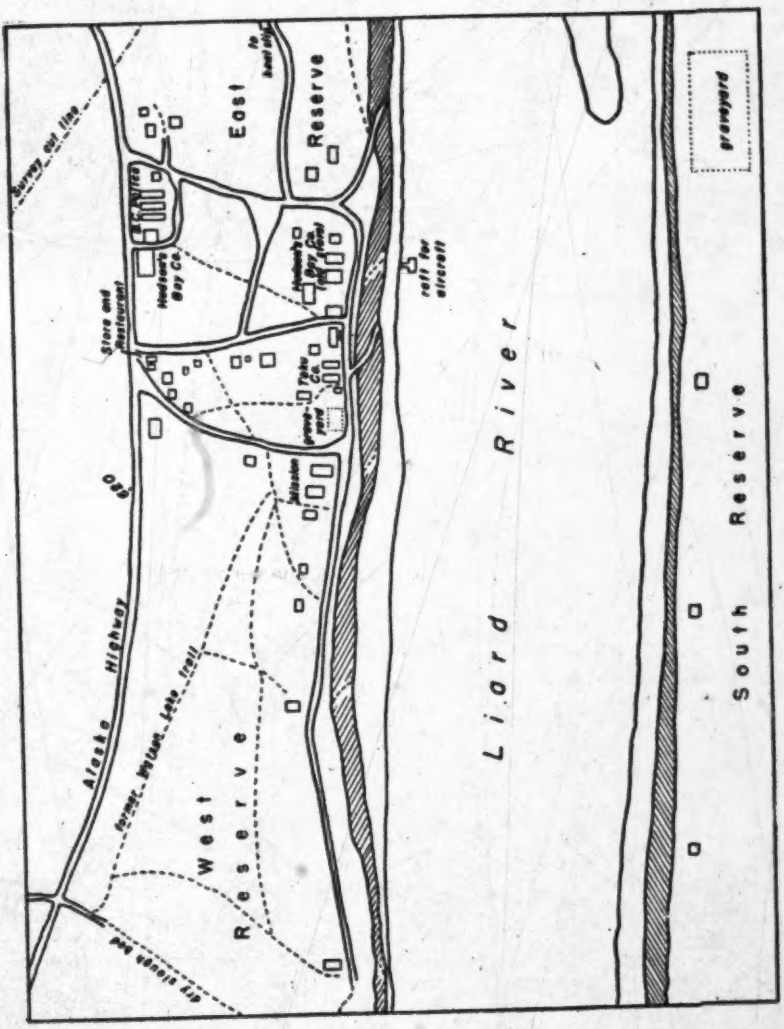

FIG. 7. Plan of Lower Post, showing Indian Reserves.